



# Glenn ANDERSON

SPRING 2009



STATE SENATOR

## How to Contact Me



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*Dear Friends,*

*This newsletter is intended to provide an update on how the Michigan Legislature is addressing the challenges we face as a state. The national economic downturn has led to increased unemployment and foreclosure rates further exacerbating the difficulties faced by Michigan.*

*From these challenges, Michigan must emerge stronger and ready to compete and succeed in the global economy. I am committed to seizing this opportunity to promote legislation that will create a more efficient, transparent and responsive state government to move Michigan forward.*

*In 2008, I fought to create jobs and boost the economy through programs such as No Worker Left Behind and by providing incentives for companies to relocate and grow in our state. This year, our goal will be to work with our business sector to continue creating new jobs for our workers. We must continue investing in Michigan by re-training our workforce and diversifying our economy.*

*In this newsletter I have outlined a few of the key initiatives for the coming year. As we work to turn the economy around, I vow to continue fighting for you and your family by pursuing every opportunity to bring jobs and growth to our communities in western Wayne County.*

*Sincerely,*

Glenn S. Anderson • State Senator • 6th District

## e-Newsletter



I provide a regular legislative update to those I represent that is sent by e-mail. If you are interested in the most up to date information on what is happening in Lansing, sign up for my e-Newsletter. You can sign up by visiting my website at [www.senate.mi.gov/Anderson](http://www.senate.mi.gov/Anderson) and clicking on e-Newsletter Sign-Up on the left side of the home page.

# PRIORITIES FOR THE 95TH LEGISLATURE

Many important issues remain to be addressed in 2009, the most important being job creation. With unemployment rates up and our economy suffering, we must act now to pass legislation to do more for job creation, increasing investment and attracting businesses to our state. No challenge is more important than the economy and I vow to continue to vigorously pursue every opportunity to bring jobs and growth to western Wayne County. As a state, the difficulties we continue to face are too important to delay action.

## Consumer Financial Information Protection

I recently introduced a bill, as part of a legislative package, aimed at putting citizens back in control of their personal and private information. The five-bill package will apply to banks, credit unions, as well as savings and loan institutions. If passed, financial institutions would be required to obtain a signature from consumers in order to sell or otherwise distribute personal information to other businesses, organizations, or entities. This important measure will protect consumers from unsolicited mailings and materials as well as further protect consumers from identity theft and fraud.

## Smokefree Workplaces

Another priority for 2009 is passing legislation to create smokefree workplaces. As you may know, the legislature debated smokefree bills throughout 2008 and to my great disappointment was unable to reach a compromise on this legislation. The Senate version of the bill, called for all workplaces and public businesses to be smokefree. The House version had exceptions for smoking in Detroit casinos and in businesses specifically for smokers, such as cigar bars. The current law will not change unless both chambers can agree on the same version of legislation. I believe this may be the most important public health issue we address this year and hope that this legislation moves forward swiftly in 2009.



## End Pharmaceutical Immunity

Repealing pharmaceutical immunity must also remain a priority in 2009. The legislature should repeal Michigan's 1995 drug immunity law shielding pharmaceutical makers from product liability lawsuits. Legislation has been repeatedly introduced that would do just that by establishing legal liability for manufacturers of defective prescription drugs like Vioxx, which has caused heart attacks in up to 139,000 Americans. Michigan is the only state in the nation where drug companies are not held to the same consumer-protection standards that other businesses must adhere to and it is important that we correct this and hold companies accountable for any harm they have caused Michigan families.

## Redistricting Michigan

Recently in the senate, I reintroduced Joint Resolution F that would create an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) to reform the practice by which legislative districts are drawn. With the changes I have proposed, Michigan citizens will be better represented. To restore confidence in the redistricting and apportionment process, this resolution would remove partisan control of the process.



The need for reform is clear, and the time to act is now, before the next census in 2010. By ensuring our citizens are better represented, we can do our job in the legislature more efficiently. So far twelve states have adopted an independent redistricting process and my resolution has the support of Common Cause of Michigan, the Public Interest Research Group in Michigan, and the Michigan Campaign Finance Network.

## Insurance Provider Accountability

I have also reintroduced legislation that focuses on insurance and strengthening consumer rights. Currently, Michigan insurance laws allow insurance companies to drag out settlements and deny claims with little recourse to the consumer. My legislation will tighten the reins on insurance companies and increase consumer protection for individual policyholders to ensure our benefits and claims are treated fairly.



Additionally, I reintroduced legislation creating penalties for insurance companies that fail to fulfill their duty to act in good faith in response to a policyholder's claim. When someone is injured or files a claim, they need to know they will be treated fairly by their insurance company. My legislation will establish penalties to those companies who delay payments on legitimate claims and allow claimants to recover their legal costs if they prevail.

# State Offers Opportunities to Workers Impacted by Economic Downturn

Earlier this year, I hosted a town hall forum to inform the men and women who have been impacted by our nation's economic downturn about the services and opportunities available to them during these tough times. Representatives from state agencies and local organizations were on hand to meet with attendees on an individual basis to discuss their specific situation.

While there was overwhelming turnout at the event, I know that many more people could benefit from these services and were not there. With this in mind, I hope the resources highlighted below may be of some assistance to you or someone you know.

- No Worker Left Behind: [www.michigan.gov/nwlb](http://www.michigan.gov/nwlb)
- United Way 211: [www.211.org](http://www.211.org) or dial 2-1-1
- Michigan Career Portal: [www.michigan.gov/careers](http://www.michigan.gov/careers)
- Michigan Talent Bank: [www.michigan.gov/talentbank](http://www.michigan.gov/talentbank)
- Michigan Works: [www.michiganworks.com](http://www.michiganworks.com)



## Senate Votes to Reduce Taxes on Michigan Businesses

In addition to assistance for the people of Michigan, we also need to put into action support for our businesses, which are the backbone of our economy. We need to pass measures that will help our businesses remain up and running and I have been working in the senate to do just that.

I recently voted to pass legislation that would phase out the burdensome 22 percent Michigan Business Tax surcharge and completely eliminate the surcharge in 2010, if signed into law. By removing this surcharge, we can guarantee that businesses are relieved of heavy costs that they could be putting toward new jobs for our workers or investing in training and infrastructure. The time to act is now and these important changes must be made to help encourage businesses to stay in Michigan and attract others to our state.

## “There Oughta Be A Law” Contest Announced

Throughout my career in the legislature I have drawn a great deal of inspiration from the experience and ideas of the diverse citizenry I am privileged to represent. This year I am happy to announce a new contest which asks for your ideas on how to improve life in our state by proposing either a law that should be enacted or one you feel should be rescinded.

Too often it seems that only causes associated with a formidable interest group or strong lobbies are able to gain the attention of elected officials. I have always

sought with great interest the concerns and priorities of those I represent and I feel this contest offers a great new way to do just that.



The winning entry or entries will be considered for introduction and the contestant will join me for lunch at the Capitol. Entries may be made by visiting my website: [www.senate.mi.gov/anderson](http://www.senate.mi.gov/anderson) .

I look forward to hearing your concerns and ideas for moving Michigan forward.



*In recognition of Reading Month, I read to school children in each of the four communities that I represent. Books can unlock the imagination that will lead these children to success and Reading Month serves as a terrific tool to raise awareness of reading with our school age children. However, it is essential that reading remain a priority year round and with this in mind, I am pleased to be able to donate two books to the libraries of each elementary school in my district.*



State Senator  
**Glenn Anderson**

P.O. Box 30036  
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# Hire Michigan First

I recently joined with my Senate Democratic colleagues to introduce “Hire Michigan First,” a package of bills that will give priority to Michigan workers for jobs on state-funded projects, and call for stronger penalties for those who hire undocumented workers. Under this plan, state tax breaks and other economic development incentives would be awarded to companies that hire the most Michigan residents. Hire Michigan First would also discourage the hiring of undocumented workers by canceling state contracts and tax incentives for companies that employ illegal labor, requiring them to pay back incentives, and barring them from future contracts.

In the past year alone, Michigan has lost more than 69,000 jobs and our unemployment rate is the highest in the entire nation. While the legislature has passed several successful initiatives to attract companies to our state and grow their businesses here, I believe that we need to take that extra step to make sure those businesses are employing Michigan workers. Any construction or development project being supported by state money and incentives should be going directly towards the creation of Michigan jobs, and I hope the legislature will stand up for Michigan workers and act quickly to pass this legislation.

## SURVEY

*As your State Senator, your ideas and opinions are important to me. Your responses on the following survey will help me represent our community better. Once you have completed the survey, please clip on the dotted line, place in a stamped envelope and mail back to me at: **State Senator Glenn S. Anderson, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536***

1. Should state contracts give preference to businesses which employ Michigan workers? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Do you support banning smoking in Michigan work places, including bars and restaurants? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Should individuals convicted of a felony related to the public trust be prohibited from running for public office?  
☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Do you support amending election law to allow for all registered voters to vote by absentee ballot if they so choose? ☐ Yes ☐ No
5. Do you support a law making text-messaging on cellular phones while driving a ticketable offense?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

Any comments or suggestions? \_\_\_\_\_  
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*I look forward to hearing from you. Thank You!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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